Fever in Kerala

*11. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that the Kerala State is witnessing an outbreak of fever epidemic;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard;

(c) whether the State Government has requested any assistance from the Central Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total number of deaths due to fever epidemic in Kerala during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) The State of Kerala has witnessed fever outbreak of Chikungunya. During 2006, total 70731 and in 2007 (till 5th August), 21590 Chikungunya fever cases have been reported. The State had also reported 981 cases of Dengue in 2006 and 188 cases in 2007 till 5th August.

Government of India has prepared a Long Term Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Chikungunya and Dengue in the country and sent to the States for implementation. For proactive surveillance, three Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals (SSH) – Medical College, Kottayam; Medical College, Thruvanthapuram and Medical college, Kozikode with laboratory support – have been identified in the State. For advanced diagnostic facility, these Hospitals were linked with Kerala State Institute of Virology and Infectious Diseases, Alappuzha which has been identified as Apex Referral Laboratory. Microbiologists and laboratory technicians of the SSH have been trained on sero-diagnosis at Apex Referral Laboratory. National Institute of Virology, Pune has been entrusted to supply IgM ELISA test kits for diagnosis of Dengue and Chikungunya to the identified institutes. Guidelines for clinical management of Dengue/DHF cases have been sent to the State for wider circulation. In addition to supply of regular logistics (Adulticides and larvicides), and amount of Rs. 220.50 lakh was released to the State during 2006-07, as emergency package for prevention and control activities of Chikungunya. During 2007-08 also, Rs. 403.90 lakh has been released to the State as emergency package for prevention and control of Chikungunya. Central teams visited the State during May, June and July this year to provide technical guidance to the State Government.

State Government requested assistance for visit of Central teams, Diagnositc Test Kits and larvicides.

In 2007, four deaths have been reported due to Dengue. However, no deaths have been reported due to Chikungunya.

Chikungunya in the Country

*12. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government called an emergency meeting of Health Ministers of nine States in the month of June, 2007 in the wake of reports of Chikungunya spreading across the country after its outbreak in Kerala;

(b) whether according to his Ministry, Chikungunya is likely to stay for 3-4 more years in the country;

(c) if so, whether the Central Government have promised a special package for Chikungunya affected States to deal with the disease;

(d) whether Government have allocated Rs. 20 crores to fight Chikungunya in the country; and

(e) if so, what concrete measures have been taken, so far?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAM DOSS): (a) to (e) A meeting was called in New Delhi to review the Chikungunya situation in nine states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu on 21st June 2007.

Yes, Sir, the Chikungunya is likely to stay for 3-4 more years, however, it is expected that the disease will not occur in epidemic form after 3-4 years in areas which have been presently affected because it gives life long immunity.

In addition to supply of regular logistics (Adulticides and larvicides), during 2006-07, an amount of Rs. 21.60 crore was released as emergency package to 11 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Andman & Nicober Islands, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharastra, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu for prevention and control activities of Chikungunya. Similarly, during 2007-08, Rs. 17.29 crores have been allotted to nine States and Rs. 8.75 crores have been released in first phase.

The funds were utilized by the States for additional larvicides/Pyrethrum Extract, fogging machines, etc. for intensive prevention and control measures. The funds were also used for intensive IEC activities and social mobilization activities for community awareness to avoid mosquito breeding in domestic/peri domestic areas.

Election by Secret Ballot

†*13. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the state of preparedness to hold secret ballot by September, 2007 as per the order of the Court for granting recognition to unions; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to extend same facilities to all registered unions, as the recognized ones, to ensure fair elections?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) In compliance with directives of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi to hold secret ballot by September, 2007, the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.